MARVEL

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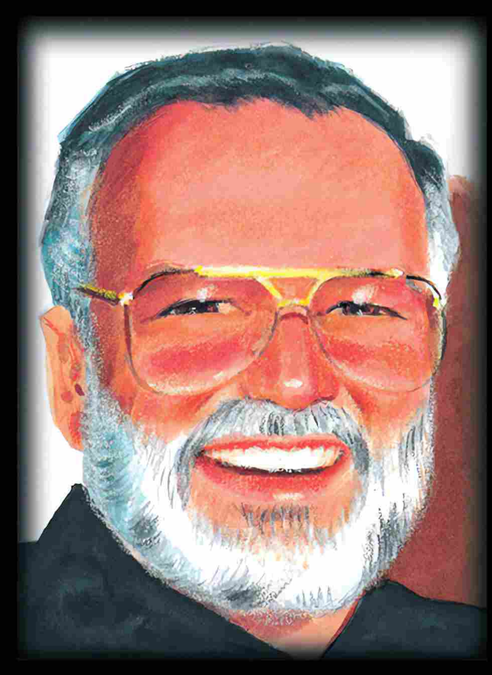
DeMATTEIS
NAUCK
ROSENBERG

MAGNETO

NAUCK

John Romita

1930 – 2023



Marvel mourns the passing of comic-book artist John Romita Sr., whose work on *Amazing Spider-Man* helped make the character a worldwide sensation. In his work as Marvel's art director, he designed the Punisher and Wolverine and served as mentor for countless artists during his decades-long tenure with the company.

Romita had a profound effect on everyone he met at Marvel. He was always kind and warm and served as an inspiration to all who knew him or followed his work. Romita helped build the Marvel Universe as we know it, and he will be greatly missed.

DECADES OF AMAZING WORK

John Romita wore many hats at Marvel. His most famous contribution was his run on *Amazing Spider-Man*, including the above cover to the series' landmark fiftieth issue. His association with the character would include drawing the cover of the famed wedding of Peter Parker and Mary Jane Watson, *Amazing Spider-Man Annual #21*, seen opposite top right. With Stan Lee, he started the Spider-Man newspaper strip, including the sequence with Kingpin from Sept. 25, 1977, seen opposite center. Behind the scenes, Romita was responsible for designing many of Marvel's most famous characters. At bottom opposite are Romita's costume designs for Black Widow and Wolverine.

"John Romita Sr. was an incomparable artist who brought so many iconic Marvel characters to life on the page and set the tone and look of Marvel's comics for decades. His version of Spider-Man has inspired so many of us at Marvel Studios. Our thoughts are with his family and the generations of artists and fans who fell in love with the characters he drew."

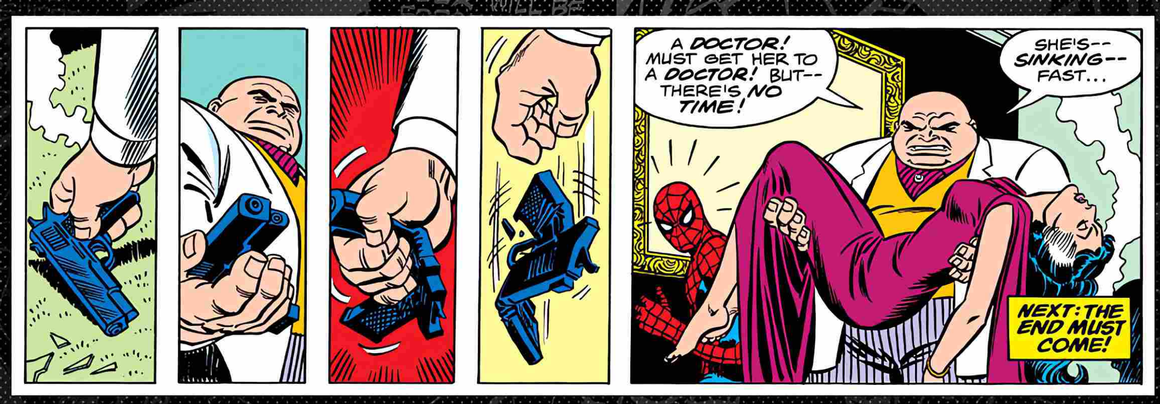
— KEVIN FEIGE

"I was recently able to fawn over some of John Romita Sr.'s original Spider-Man pages, and the word that kept popping into my mind as I marveled over his linework was 'timeless.' His style was such a departure from what had come before, which John did say made him nervous, but one that came to define the look of Peter, Spider-Man, MJ, Gwen and everyone else in their orbit. And the same was true for every Marvel character John designed, penciled and inked. Whether as an artist or art director, John's work influenced generations of comic book artists. With his passing, the comic industry loses a true legend, but just like his artwork, his legacy will remain timeless."

— C.B. CEBULSKI

"When you close your eyes and picture Spider-Man, you're probably picturing a John Romita Sr. Spider-Man. From his debut of the character in *Amazing Spider-Man #39*, the subsequent fifty issues of art, more than a hundred covers and the work he did on the newspaper strip, John defined Spidey for generations of people around the world. That would be enough for anyone else, but John was also an excellent art director, a fantastic father, a doting grandfather and a gentleman. All of us making Spider-Man comics, and Marvel Comics in general, work in his shadow and strive to live up to the example of the legend, Jazzy John Romita."

— NICK LOWE



"One of the highlights of my career was working with John Romita Sr. I couldn't believe that my 25-year-old self was working and interacting with him, and what made it even better was that he was so considerate and kind – something that has stuck with me ever since, among many other memories with him. It was one of the rare moments where you meet one of your heroes and he exceeds your expectations in every possible way.

His contributions to Marvel's pantheon and culture are immense, and he will be sorely missed. He was a great and kind man who truly made the world a better place. My deepest condolences to Virginia, Johnny and the Romita family."

— DAN BUCKLEY

MAX EISENHARDT. ERIK LENSHERR. By any name—is he a victim or a villain? A freedom fighter or a terrorist? A trusted mentor or an evil mutant? The only fact that isn't up for debate is that he's the MASTER OF MAGNETISM known as...

MAGNETO

Magneto promised a gravely wounded CHARLES XAVIER that he would take his place as Headmaster of Xavier's School for Gifted Youngsters. But gaining the trust of the New Mutants is no easy feat, as they struggle to understand how the man they are to take orders from is the same evil villain thwarted by the X-Men time and time again.

But there are two sides to every story, and MAGNETO recalls those earlier conflicts very differently, remembering his desire to serve as a lightning rod of anti-mutant sentiment and hoping to inspire other mutants to step forward as protectors of human- and mutantkind. All the while, he remains haunted by the memory of his family and his own younger self, whose judgments weigh on him.

Returning to the mansion after an errand, Magneto was shocked to discover the school had been attacked by someone called IRAE, Queen of Wrath. Using Magneto's rage against him, Irae dragged Magneto to her subterranean base, where she and her Sisterhood of Evil Mutants... knelt before him!

EVIL MUTANT

CHAPTER TWO: DAY OF WRATH!

Editor's Note: This story takes place circa **NEW MUTANTS (VOL. 1) #38.**

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He's coming. Descending like an angel from the heavens.

But he's not an angel, is he?

He's just an adolescent--filled with the pride and arrogance of youth...

...flying blindly into the heart of danger. So desperate to protect--

Protect who? Odd. I can't remember. In fact...

...I can't recall how I got here. Or what this place is.

But I know that I'm here for a reason...

...and that the winged intruder...

KLANG

...is my sworn enemy.

So I trap the bird in my magnetic net...

...and *clip his wings.*

TOK

It will take mere seconds for me to *pulp* this young idiot's bones...

(NO!)

...and *implode* his internal organs...

(I won't *do* that!)

...leaving him a lifeless sack of flesh.

(I'm not a *murderer!*)

WHAT...?

Where has the angel gone? And...

...*who* the hell is *this?*

SAM...?

Yes. *Sam Guthrie.* But how can I know *his* name...

...when **my own** remains a mystery. Who **am** I? And why--

LET HIM GO!

Ah, **this** one I recognize.

Robert Drake.

The so-called **Iceman.**

Youngest, **weakest,** of Xavier's whelps.

Of course! **That's** where I am! **Xavier's school!** And I'm here because I **loathe** Charles--more than any man alive...

(That's not **true!**)

...and slaughtering his beloved students--his **X-Men**--will **break** Xavier: splinter his heart. Shatter his formidable mind.

KRAKOOM

(Charles **isn't** my enemy!)

(He **believed** in me! **Trusted** me!)

And with Xavier out of the way, I can finally--

DAMN.

It happens **again.** One face slips away...

...replaced by another. Intimately familiar...

...yet somehow **unknown.**

A word rises in my mind: **Cypher.**

But I don't know what it *means.*

Something... something's *very wrong...*

...but I *can't focus!* My thoughts are jumbled, my feelings confused.

I'm not sure if I'm meant to *destroy* Xavier's children...

...or *save* them.

YOU'RE MEANT TO DRIVE **HOMO SAPIENS** INTO THE DUST!

Her *face* is before me, but her *voice...*

...is coming from *inside my head...*

TO *REMAKE THE WORLD* IN YOUR IMAGE!

...and every syllable vibrates with a *naked rage* I can barely...

...contain...?

NO! Not the *boy!*

Anyone but that *damned boy!*

Always *haunting* me! *Reminding* me of--

OF *what?*

Why can't I remember? Why can't I--

TOOM

WHO?

Another of Xavier's students. The one with ***psychokinetic abilities.***

YOU HAVEN'T WON YET!

They call her... ***Marvel Girl.*** An insipid, inadequate name for a creature so powerful.

I WON'T GIVE UP! NONE OF US WILL ***EVER*** GIVE UP!

More powerful than ***any*** of them realize.

It's as if I see her future laid out before me. See her rising, like a ***phoenix,*** from the ashes of tragedy...

YOUR DETERMINATION IS IMPRESSIVE.

THRUMM

...to embrace a great and terrible ***destiny.*** And again I ask:

How do I ***know*** this?

BUT ALL I HAVE TO DO IS MAGNETICALLY MANIPULATE YOUR ***NEURO-PATHWAYS*** AND YOU'RE--

--FINISHED...?

Rahne? How can ***she*** be here? For that matter...

...how can I?

I think all of this has happened before... *years ago.* And yet Rahne...

...wasn't here then. She's from--

From *when? Where?*

It's as if I'm trapped in some loop...

YOU'VE BEEN PLAYING A *CAT-AND-MOUSE* GAME WITH US!

...where past and present are collapsing, colliding. But if I just take a breath, *concentrate,* I can--

IN ANY GAME LIKE THAT, IT'S *CYCLOPS* WHO TURNS THE CAT INTO A POWER-BLASTING *TIGER!*

SHUT UP! I NEED TO *THINK!*

MY MEMORY IS IN A *THOUSAND PIECES*--LIKE A JIGSAW PUZZLE, SCATTERED ON THE WIND...

...AND I'LL NEVER PUT IT ALL BACK TOGETHER IF YOU DON'T LEAVE ME--

SHRAAAK

--ALONE!

For a moment, I'm consumed by a fury so deep, so dark...

...that it becomes my *entire universe.* And in that cosmic wrath, I find my *name,* I find *myself,* at last!

I am Magneto-- Lord of the Evil Mutants...

...and it's *my* destiny to crush humanity... crush *all* who oppose me...under my bootheel, and--

No, that's *not right!*

Magneto is a *role* I've chosen to play. A *terrible sacrifice* I've made, for the good of mutantkind. The good of the *world.*

But if that's the case...

...why have I taken such *pleasure* in it?

And why have I *hurt* so many innocent people? *Dear God...*

...is *this* my legacy? Death and carnage?

IT'S NOT TRUE.

IT'S NOT *TRUE.*

Is *this...*

...who I *really am?*

IT'S

NOT

TRUE!

SOMEWHERE IN THE SUBANTARCTIC...

HAIL MAGNETO! HAIL MAGNETO! HAIL MAGNETO! HAIL MAGNETO!

MAGNETO

EVIL MUTANT

Chapter Two: Day of Wrath!

WHO *ARE* YOU? WHAT--

WHAT HAVE YOU *DONE* TO ME?

I AM THE ONE YOU HAVE BEEN *WAITING* FOR, MAGNETO. I AM YOUR *SAVIOR*--AS YOU HAVE BEEN *MINE*. I AM *IRAE*--

--*QUEEN OF WRATH.*

YOU...YOU ATTACKED MY *SCHOOL*. MY *STUDENTS**--

THEY'RE NOT *YOUR* STUDENTS... THEY'RE *XAVIER'S*--

--AND I ONLY MIRRORED WHAT *YOU* ONCE DID,** WHEN YOU WERE A BETTER...A *STRONGER*... MAN.

YOU...YOU *RE-CREATED* THAT BATTLE... IN MY MIND. BUT--

*LAST ISSUE AND **X-MEN #S 16 & 17! --MARK B.

BUT YOUR UNCONSCIOUS *RESISTED* ME. AN EFFORT BOTH ADMIRABLE--AND *FOOLISH*.

YOU'RE THE FOOL, IRAE, IF YOU THINK YOU CAN KEEP *ME* A PRISONER! IF YOU THINK--

ARRRRR--!

EVEN IN HIS WEAKENED STATE, HE STRUGGLES AGAINST THE *SUPPRESSION PROTOCOLS*. HE MIGHT EVEN BREAK FREE OF THE *MINDSTORMER*... GIVEN TIME.

BUT DON'T WORRY, *SISTERS*--A FEW SIMPLE ADJUSTMENTS AND--

THERE. HE'LL *REST* NOW. AND WHEN HE AWAKENS--

--THE WORK WILL RESUME. WE'LL LIBERATE LORD MAGNETO FROM THE *LIES AND DELUSIONS* HE'S WOVEN AROUND HIMSELF.

AND WHEN WE FINALLY SUCCEED...I *SWEAR* TO YOU--

"--HE'LL *THANK* US."

GUESS OUR *HOLIDAY PARTY* DIDN'T TURN OUT THE WAY WE PLANNED.

A BROBDINGNAGIAN UNDERSTATEMENT.

BROBDING *WHAT*IAN?

BROBDINGNAGIAN--MEANING *GIGANTIC.*

YOU COULD'VE JUST *SAID* THAT.

XAVIER'S SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YOUNGSTERS.

IF SELF-SOULFRIEND *DOUGLAS* STUDIED MORE AND ENGAGED IN VIDEO GAMING LESS--

--SELFSOULFRIEND WOULD KNOW THE WORD ORIGINATED IN JONATHAN SWIFT'S CLASSIC 1726 NOVEL *GULLIVER'S TRAVELS*, WHEN THE TITULAR CHARACTER--

WE CAN DISCUSS DOUG'S EDUCATIONAL DEFICIENCIES ANOTHER TIME, *WARLOCK.*

RIGHT NOW, WE'VE GOT TO LOCATE MAGNETO--

--AND BRING HIM *HOME.*

AND HOW DO YOU PROPOSE WE FIND HIM, *XUÂN?*

A BETTER QUESTION, *DANI,* IS SHOULD WE EVEN *TRY* TO FIND HIM?

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?

I'M SAYING...WHAT IF MAGNETO *PLANNED* THIS?

BUT THE SAME GIRL WHO ATTACKED US--ATTACKED HIM! TOOK HIM *AWAY* WITH HER AND--

DID SHE, *SAM?* OR WAS THE WHOLE THING STAGED FOR OUR BENEFIT? THE PERFECT WAY TO LURE US INTO A *TRAP?*

I CANNAE BELIEVE WHAT I'M *HEARING!*

ERIK'S WATCHED OVER US LIKE A *GUARDIAN ANGEL* SINCE THE PROFESSOR LEFT!

PROVED HIMSELF *AGAIN AND AGAIN* AS A GOOD AN' DECENT MAN! HE'S--

HE'S *MAGNETO.*

SOMEONE WHO SPENT YEARS TRYING TO *SUBJUGATE HUMANITY.* TRYING TO *ANNIHILATE* CHARLES, THE X-MEN, AND ALL THEY STAND FOR.

PERHAPS HE *HAS* CHANGED... BECOME A BETTER PERSON. OR PERHAPS--

DON'T TELL ME YOU *BELIEVE* THIS NONSENSE? THAT Y'THINK ERIK'S BEEN *LYING* TO US THE WHOLE TIME?

IT'S NOT A MATTER OF BELIEF. IT'S A MATTER OF TAKING MAGNETO'S *ENTIRE HISTORY* INTO ACCOUNT.

I'M NOT SAYING WE SHOULDN'T GO *AFTER* HIM--I DON'T THINK THAT'S WHAT *ROBERTO* AND *ILLYANA* ARE SAYING EITHER.

BUT WE CAN'T BLIND OURSELVES TO THE *DANGERS* AHEAD. OR TO THE POSSIBILITY--

--THAT WE'VE BEEN *BETRAYED.*

WE CAN DEBATE THIS QUESTION ALL DAY, *MES AMIS*--

--BUT DEBATE WON'T DELIVER THE *ANSWERS* WE NEED.

IT'S TIME FOR *ACTION!*

RIGHT. *ACTION!*

AND... *UH...WHAT* ACTION WOULD THAT BE?

HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN THAT WE POSSESS THE MEANS TO LOCATE *ANY MUTANT* ON THE FACE OF THE EARTH?

CEREBRO!

BUT IT'S *LOCKED DOWN* BEHIND THAT WALL AND WE DON'T HAVE ACCESS.

DON'T WORRY, I CAN TELEPOR--

KLIK LAK

BEEP

EEP

EEP

HMMMMM

YOU WERE *SAYING...?*

NEVER MIND.

YOU WERE CLEARLY PAYING ***CLOSE ATTENTION*** WHEN YOU WERE XAVIER'S ***ASSISTANT,*** XUÂN--BUT DON'T PAT YOURSELF ON THE BACK JUST YET.

IT TAKES A ***POWERFUL MIND*** LIKE THE PROFESSOR'S TO ACTIVATE CEREBRO--

--AND WE HAVE ***NO IDEA*** WHAT THIS MACHINE WOULD DO TO ONE OF ***US.*** THE RISK IS JUST TOO--

SELF IS MOST ASSUREDLY NOT "ONE OF US." SELF IS A ***TECHNO-ORGANIC LIFE-FORM*** AND, AS SUCH, CAN EFFORTLESSLY MERGE CIRCUITRY WITH CEREBRO AND--

WHOOOM

OBSERVATION:

WHOOPS.

This place. This technology. It all seems...

...Familiar. But I'm not sure why or how.

But the answers will become clear once I'm free of this damn--What did she call it? A *Mindstormer?*

Well, if it's a storm you're looking for, Irae...

...I'm happy to deliver.

There was a time...many years ago... when I felt small, trapped, desperate. A helpless victim of those *Nazi animals.*

And I swore then that I would never be *anyone's* victim...

THUMM

...ever...

...again!

A *counter wave* of energy from the machine.

FRRARK

Like a thousand daggers... *piercing* my mind! *Driving deep...*

...into my...

...very...

...soul.

YOU'VE BEEN AT THIS FOR *HOURS,* MY LORD--TRYING AND FAILING, OVER AND OVER--

--AND YOU HAVEN'T EVEN *REALIZED* IT--

--BECAUSE EVERY ATTEMPT *DRAINS* YOUR STRENGTH... *FRAGMENTS* YOUR MEMORY.

IT BREAKS MY HEART TO DO THIS. BUT IT *HAS* TO BE DONE. FOR YOUR SAKE. FOR MINE.

FOR THE *WORLD'S.*

TH-THIS PLACE...WHY DO I... *KNOW* IT?

BECAUSE IT WAS ONCE *YOURS.*

BACK WHEN YOU BEGAN YOUR HOLY CRUSADE, YOU HAD *MANY* HIDDEN BASES-- ON *DESERTED ISLANDS*... ASTEROIDS IN *SPACE.*

AND THIS IS A FORTRESS EVEN YOUR *BROTHERHOOD* WASN'T AWARE OF.

ONE *YOU ABANDONED* IN THOSE EARLY DAYS.

BUT I LOCATED IT, MY LORD. *PREPARED THE WAY* FOR YOU.

WHO... *ARE...* YOU?

I *TOLD* YOU--

--I AM *IRAE...QUEEN OF WRATH.*

BUT *YOU* MAY CALL ME--

--DAUGHTER.

D-DAUGHTER...?!

LET ME--

--TELL YOU A *STORY...*

"ERROR! ERROR! GRAVE MISCALCULATION!"

IT IS NOW EVIDENT THAT SELF IS INCAPABLE OF COMPLETING THE MERGENCE--

--BECAUSE CEREBRO REQUIRES A *HUMAN MIND* FOR ACTIVATION!

GREAT. CARE T'TELL ME WHICH ONE OF US CAN *DO* THIS--

--WITHOUT GETTING THEIR *BRAINS* TURNED INTO AN *OMELET?*

I'M THE ONLY *TELEPATH* HERE--

--SO THE RISK SHOULD BE *MINE.*

YOU *ARE* A TELEPATH, XUÂN--

--BUT YOU'RE HARDLY ON THE *PROFESSOR'S* LEVEL.

ME? I'VE BEEN DEALING WITH THE HORRORS OF *LIMBO*...THE CONSTANT SHIFTING BACK AND FORTH *BETWEEN DIMENSIONS*... FOR YEARS--

--AND IT'S MADE MY MIND STRONG. *RESILIENT.*

BUT I'M *TEAM LEADER* AND--

AND *THAT'S* WHY WE CAN'T AFFORD TO *LOSE* YOU.

DO IT.

BUT PLEASE, ILLYANA... *PLEASE--*

--BE *CAREFUL.*

TELL THAT TO *CEREBRO.*

NOW ALL OF YOU DO ME A FAVOR AND *DON'T TALK--* BECAUSE I *REALLY* NEED TO--

--CONCENTRATE...

THIS...THIS IS INCREDIBLE!

IT'S LIKE MY CONSCIOUSNESS HAS TENDRILS... REACHING OUT--

--ACROSS THE WORLD! TOUCHING EVERY MIND ON THE PLA--

HUMMMMMMMMM

FRAAAK

ILLYANA!

ARE Y'OKAY?

TH-THAT DEPENDS.

DID IT WORK?

CERTAINLY *LOOKS* LIKE IT. BUT-- WHERE IS THAT?

THEY'RE CALLED *THE FORBIDDEN ISLANDS.*

OF *COURSE* THEY ARE.

ACCORDING TO THE GEO-LOCATOR, THIS IS ONE OF THE MOST *REMOTE* PLACES ON EARTH. ROUGHLY 2000 MILES FROM MADAGASCAR--IN THE SOUTHERN INDIAN OCEAN.

BUT ARE WE SURE THAT--

MAGNETO'S THERE, *AMARA.* I COULD *FEEL* HIM.

HIS PRESENCE COULDN'T HAVE BEEN MORE REAL IF HE WAS HERE IN THE *ROOM* WITH ME.

AND... AND *SHE* WAS THERE TOO. *THE GIRL.* WE HAVE TO *STOP* HER BEFORE--

...*BEFORE*...

ILLYANA NEEDS TIME TO *RECOVER* FROM HER ORDEAL. SHE CAN'T ACCOMPANY US ON THIS MISSION.

I'LL *STAY* WITH HER.

NO. THAT GIRL *DEFEATED AND CAPTURED* MAGNETO. WE'LL NEED *CANNONBALL'S* RAW POWER IF WE'RE GOING TO GET HIM BACK.

=SIGH= *I'LL* STAY BEHIND. YOU WERE GONNA ASK ME *ANYWAY,* RIGHT?

LET'S FACE IT: WHAT GOOD WOULD *CYPHER* DO AGAINST AN ENEMY LIKE THIS?

UNNECESSARILY *SELF-PITYING,* SELFSOULFRIEND DOUGLAS-- BUT NOT WHOLLY *INACCURATE.*

THANKS, BUDDY. YOU *ALWAYS* KNOW WHAT TO SAY.

YOU ARE MOST WELCOME, SELFSOULFRIEND.

HE WAS BEING *SARCASTIC,* 'LOCK.

INDEED? OBSERVATION: *MY BAD.*

BUT HOW ARE WE GONNA *GET* THERE?

I'VE GOT THE *PERFECT* VEHICLE. OR SHOULD I SAY--

"--WARLOCK DOES!"

...YOU SURE THAT THING IS *SAFE?*

APPEARANCES TO THE CONTRARY, SELF IS NOT A "THING." AND SELF WOULD NEVER KNOWINGLY ENDANGER HIS SELFRIENDS.

"KNOWINGLY"?

DESPITE SELF'S HIGH FUNCTIONALITY, THERE IS ALWAYS THE POSSIBILITY OF *MALFUNCTION.*

MAYBE WE SHOULD TAKE THE *BUS...!*

JUST *GET IN,* SAM--

--AND LET'S GO!

ZWOOM

XAVIER'S

...DOUG...?

RIGHT HERE.

DON'T... DON'T *LEAVE...* OKAY?

YOU HAVE MY *WORD,* ILLYANA.

"I'M NOT GOING *ANYWHERE."*

...HALFWAY ACROSS THE WORLD IN TWENTY MINUTES. *NOT BAD,* 'LOCK.

NOT *GOOD,* EITHER.

DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE *STILL* THINKIN' MAGNETO'S LED US INTO SOME KIND OF TRAP?

BOBBY CAN'T *HELP* HIMSELF, *MON AMI.* IT'S IN HIS *NATURE.* GLASS HALF EMPTY AND ALL TH--

ALARM, ALARM!

SELFSENSORS IDENT *ENERGY WAVE* OF UNKNOWN ORIGIN ERUPTING FROM BELOW!

EVADE! EVADE! EVA--

SHRAKK

TEK
KEK
WUPF
SPUTT

WHOOOM

GO AHEAD, BOB-- *SAY* IT.

I TOLD YOU SO.

Next--
WHO *IS* IRAE?

MAGNETO #3

NEXT ISSUE